



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**  
Memphis District

# News Release

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## **Corps holds Press Conference to address the Birds Point-New Madrid Floodway**

SIKESTON, Mo., April 30, 2011 – Corps of Engineers leaders held a press conference in Sikeston, Mo., today to update the public on their ongoing flood fight efforts in the area and on the status of the Birds Point- New Madrid (BP-NM) Floodway. Present were Maj. Gen. Michael Walsh, Mississippi River Commission President and Commander of the Corps' Mississippi Valley Division, Maj. Gen. John W. Peabody, Commander of the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division; Col. Vernie L. Reichling Jr., Commander of the Memphis District and Mr. R.D. James a member of the Mississippi River Commission (MRC).

Walsh addressed a crowd of more than 45 media representatives and the public. He said, "This is the highest level of flooding since the historical flood of 1927." Gen. Walsh further stated, that there was increased flooding throughout the Mississippi River system.

Walsh went on to say that the Corps' highest priority is public safety and all resources are being used to control this level of flooding.

"Hundreds of Corps' personnel from various districts as well as the Engineering Research Development Center, in Vicksburg, Miss., are working around the clock, monitoring the situation," he said.

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## **Corps holds Press Conference-2/2/2/2**

The plan and preparation for this event is necessary to maintain the integrity of the National Flood Protection System of levees, floodwalls, floodways, relief wells and other structures. “The system is very complex and under seepage is occurring throughout the Fulton County, Kentucky and Cairo, Illinois levees,” stated Walsh.

“Once again, we are aggressively monitoring the situation on the ground,” he added.

Currently, a barge with explosives is enroute to the vicinity of the Birds Point- New Madrid Floodway and once there it will hold in place. Meanwhile, Gen. Walsh and his advisors will monitor the situation around the clock to determine whether or not to move to the next step of the plan. This next step- if necessary- would be due to load pipes in sections of the levee with a blasting agent.

Walsh stated, “that no decision has been made on taking this next step at this time. “We are closely monitoring the situation and we will keep the media and public informed,” he said.

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